

Listing of Claims:

This listing of claims reflects all claim amendments and replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application (material to be inserted is in **bold and underline**, and material to be deleted is in ~~strikeout~~ or (if the deletion is of five or fewer consecutive characters or would be difficult to see) in double brackets [[]].

In brief, claims 1, 4, 9 and 14 have been amended, and claims 18-26 have been cancelled.

1. (Currently amended) A rack device for loading and carrying elongate cargo on a **roof of a** vehicle comprising

~~a pair of~~ **first and second** crossbars, **each crossbar being attachable via a pair of tower devices ridigly across the roof of a vehicle such that the crossbars are oriented in parallel to each other perpendicular to the vehicle's direction of travel**
~~configured to be secured to an exterior surface of a vehicle, a first of the pair of crossbars being disposed at a height,~~

a plurality of boat saddles connected to the crossbars for supporting a boat on top of the vehicle in transit,

a **single** support member that telescopes **independently** out of ~~the first~~ **an end of**
~~the first of the pair of crossbar to~~ **an** ~~at least one~~ extended **horizontal** position **at**
approximately the height of the vehicle's roof, the support member being configured to
provide support **for loading a boat from a side of the vehicle to a secure carrying**
position on top of the crossbars, ~~substantially at the height of the first crossbar, at each~~
~~extended position of the support member;~~

a stop mechanism preventing the support member from sliding completely out of the first crossbar, and

a load retainer positioned near a distal end portion of the support member to prevent cargo from sliding off the support member while loading.

2. (Original) The rack device of claim 1, wherein the stop mechanism includes a collar that mounts on the end of the first crossbar, and a contact member near a proximal end of the support member, the contact member preventing the support member from being completely removed from the collar.

3-4. (Cancelled)

5. (Currently amended) The rack device of claim 1-4, wherein the support member has a long axis, the load retainer being ~~is at least~~ substantially symmetrical relative to the long axis of the support member.

6. (Currently amended) The rack device of claim 1-4, wherein the support member has a long axis, and a portion of the load retainer extends in a direction at least substantially perpendicular to the long axis of the support member.

7. (Currently amended) The rack device of claim 1-4, wherein the load retainer is configured to function as a handle member so the support member can be easily deployed between stored and deployed positions.

8. (Currently amended) The rack device of claim 1-4, further comprising
a collar configured to be mounted on the end of the first crossbar, and
a contact member disposed near a proximal end of the support member, the contact member preventing the support member from being completely removed from the collar.

9-12. (Cancelled)

13. (Currently amended) The device of apparatus of claim 1 9, wherein the support member is a bar, the bar being comprised of a steel core and an outer aluminum sheath.

14. (Currently amended) A rack device for loading and carrying elongate cargo on a roof of a vehicle comprising

a pair of first and second crossbars, each crossbar being attachable via a pair of tower devices rigidly across the roof of a vehicle such that the crossbars are oriented in parallel to each other perpendicular to the vehicle's direction of travel
~~configured to be secured to an exterior surface of a vehicle, a first of the pair of crossbars being disposed at a height,~~

a plurality of boat saddles connected to the crossbars for supporting a boat on top of the vehicle in transit,

a single elongate support member having a distal end portion, the support member being configured to telescope independently out of an end of the first of the pair of crossbar, from a stored to a fully extended horizontal working position, the support member being configured to provide support for loading a boat from a side of the vehicle to a secure carrying position on the boat saddles on top of the car,
~~substantially at the height of the first crossbar, at the fully extended working position, and~~

a handle member connected to the distal end portion of the support member adjacent the distal end portion.

15. (Original) The rack device of claim 14, wherein the support member is at least substantially rectangular in cross section.

16. (Original) The rack device of claim 14, wherein the support member is a bar, the bar having a load-bearing core and a rust-resistant exterior.

17. (Original) The rack device of claim 16, wherein the core includes steel and the rust-resistant exterior includes aluminum.

18-26. (Cancelled)

27. (Currently amended) The rack device of claim 1-4, wherein the support member has a central axis, the load retainer being symmetrical around the central axis of the support member ~~is configured to prevent cargo from sliding off the support member in each rotational position of the support member.~~